

# FATALITY



AFZF-SAFE

**DEPARTMENT OF THE ARMY**  
HEADQUARTERS, III CORPS AND FORT HOOD  
1001 761ST TANK BATTALION AVENUE  
FORT HOOD, TEXAS 76544-5000



20 APR 2006

MEMORANDUM FOR SEE DISTRIBUTION

SUBJECT: Motorcycle Fatality—Fatality Memo 06-08

1. Another motorcycle accident claimed two lives on 8 April 2006. A Corps Soldier and an Airman were killed while riding a motorcycle when a vehicle operator failed to yield before proceeding from a stop sign striking the motorcycle and killing the two servicemen. The vehicle operator is suspected of driving under the influence of alcohol.
2. Neither the motorcycle operator nor the passenger wore a helmet. Though so far the evidence is inconclusive if wearing a motorcycle helmet would have prevented this tragedy, the odds of their survival would have undoubtedly increased had they worn a helmet. Initial reports do not address the use of other required personal protective equipment (PPE). Motorcycle operators and passengers must wear a properly fastened, approved helmet. Other required PPE includes proper eye protection (clear goggles or face shield), full-fingered gloves, long trousers, long-sleeved shirt or jacket, high-visibility garments (bright colored for day/retroreflective for night), and leather boots or over the ankle shoes. Additionally, motorcycle operators must successfully complete an Army approved motorcycle safety training course by regulation before they can operate their motorcycle.
3. The Army leadership continues to emphasize privately owned vehicle (POV) accident prevention for a very good reason; POV accidents continue to be the number one killer of our Soldiers outside of combat. Standards are the key to our success and must be enforced by leaders to guide Soldiers in the right direction. The Combat Readiness Center website <https://crc.army.mil/home/> and the III Corps Safety website at the Fort Hood homepage contain many valuable tools to assist you in your efforts to affect change within our Soldiers and their off duty activities.
4. This accident was an unfortunate event that should not have occurred. Two great young Americans lost their lives because of the poor decisions. Remember, we must do our part to combat this type of behavior in order to eliminate these tragedies. We must continue to instill POV accident prevention in all our Soldiers. Our Soldiers must be properly prepared for the challenges of our highways.

**ENSURE WIDEST DISSEMINATION AND POST ON BULLETIN BOARDS**

  
THOMAS F. METZ  
Lieutenant General, USA  
Commanding

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